

# PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

*Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2026*

*The National Assembly met at Half-past Nine o'clock a.m.*

## PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

## SECOND READING

CONSTITUTION OF ZIMBABWE AMENDMENT (NO. 3) BILL

[H. B. 1, 2026]

First Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Second Reading of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill [H.B. 1, 2026].

Question again proposed.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** I have been given a list here, which does not debar anyone from debating. Yes, the naughty ones indicated that we said Hon. Members of the opposition should not debate the Bill yesterday. That is from the gutter press and they will pay for that.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Point of order Mr. Speaker. I note that the Hon. Minister of Justice is not in the House. I am just wondering who is actually going to be taking note of the contributions by

Members because procedurally, he is supposed to respond to the issues that Members are going to raise. So, there may be someone who is standing on his behalf; I do not know but I thought we would need to find out.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Good observation. The Acting Leader of Government Business this morning is Hon. Mavetera. As far as the Minister taking notes, he does not take notes. All proceedings are recorded verbatim. He will have to follow what is recorded in the *Hansard*. He is delayed elsewhere but he should join us any time.

All right, Honourable Mushoriwa!

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

**HON. CHAKAKURA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker good morning. I rise to support the Amendment Bill No. 3. This Bill is necessary to strengthen the nation's governance framework. The Bill is designed to refine the 2013 Constitution based on over a decade of practical experience. It is not an abandonment of the constitutional order, but a living evolution to improve governance and long-term national development – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

Mr. Speaker Sir, a key feature is the extension of the Presidential and Parliamentary terms from five to seven years, which would provide the Government with sufficient time to implement major development programmes without constant electoral disruptions.

Furthermore, the proposed shift to a parliamentary system for electing the President is intended to reduce political polarisation, promote consensus-building and strengthen accountability through continuous parliamentary oversight. This reform is not a unilateral decision. It follows a 90-day public consultation period that generated over thousands of written submissions, Mr. Speaker Sir, marking it as one of the most widely participated in legislative processes in the country's history.

My worry is with the proposal contained in Clause 18 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Bill No. 3, which seeks to abolish the Zimbabwe Gender Commission by transferring its functions to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. At the heart of this debate is a very simple question. What do we do with an institution that is working? When an institution fails, we reform it.

When it does not deliver results, we change it, but when an institution delivers results, protects citizens, strengthens our laws and advances our Constitution, we do not abolish it. We strengthen it, Mr. Speaker Sir.

Over the past decades, the commission has established itself as one of Zimbabwe's most effective constitutional institutions in advancing gender equality, protecting vulnerable groups and promoting access to justice. Its achievements are not theoretical, they are real. They are measurable and they have changed many lives. Mr. Speaker Sir, for starters, through its advisory role, the commission has helped shape some of the most important reforms affecting women, girls and children in Zimbabwe.

It contributed to reforms that strengthened the legal definition of a child as anyone below the age of 18. It advocated for the Marriage Act, which aligned our laws with the constitutional court's judgment outlawing child marriages. It participated in the development of sentencing guidelines that ensure stronger punishment for perpetrators of sexual, particularly rape and gender-based violence.

Mr. Speaker Sir, those reforms did not happen by accident. They happened because there was a specialised institution gathering evidence, listening to communities, identifying gaps in the law and pushing for change. Today, thousands of girls are better protected for child marriage because of that work. Thousands of survivors have greater confidence in the justice system because of that work. Zimbabwe's laws are stronger because of that work.

Mr. Speaker Sir, for years, many women suffered harassment in silence because there were no clear protections in effective systems of accountability. Today, there are stronger legal protections, stronger workplace standards and stronger institutional responses. That progress did not happen on its own. It happened because the Zimbabwe Gender Commission identified the problem, documented the evidence and advocated for solutions. That is what effective constitutional institutions do. They turn lived experience into legal reforms.

The commission has investigated major cases involving both public and private institutions, demonstrating that accountability applies to everyone, regardless of status or influence. It has also

established a national call centre and case management system that allows citizens to report violence safely, efficiently and free of charge. The question before us is simple. If this commission is abolished, who will provide the specialised services with the same focus and expertise?

Mr. Speaker Sir, perhaps the strongest argument for retaining the commission is its work in rural, hard-to-reach communities. Through the mobile one-stop centre access to justice initiative, the commission has taken services directly to the people, not only to major cities. Not only to provincial centres, but to some of the most remote communities in our country.

Working alongside Government departments, health professionals, social welfare officers, police services, traditional leaders and civil society organisations, the commission has helped nearly 10 000 survivors access to justice, health care, counselling, documentation and economic empowerment opportunities. That is what constitutional rights look like in practice.

If we abolish the commission, we risk weakening a system that has helped criminalise sexual harassment, combat child marriage,

strengthen access to justice, support thousands of survivors, influence major legal reforms and bring constitutional rights to some of the most remote communities in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Speaker Sir, that would not be progress. That would be a step backward. The proper response to success is not abolition. The proper response to success is support. The proper response to success is strengthening what works. For these reasons, I urge this House to support the retention of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and reaffirm its constitutional mandate as a specialised institution dedicated to advancing gender equality, protecting vulnerable citizens and strengthening our democracy. I thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

**HON. MUNEMO:** Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to air my voice on this Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3. It has several advantages that I seek to go through so that the Hon. House will hear and understand the advantages of this CAB 3.

Looking at policy continuity and stability, Hon. Speaker, extending Presidential and Parliamentary terms from five to seven years aims to eliminate election-mode toxicity and provide the

leadership with ample time to complete long-term national development.

Turning to economic growth and investor confidence, supporters state that reducing the frequency of elections will cut election-related costs, allowing the Government to focus resources on infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

On institutional efficiency, Hon. Speaker, CAB 3 proposes streamlining oversight mechanisms, creating a standalone Zimbabwe Electoral Delimitation Commission and enabling the President to appoint ten additional Senators to bring broader technical expertise in Parliament.

Transitioning to an aligned governance framework, the amendment introduces a parliamentary pathway for electing the President, which proponents argue will reduce political tension and align Zimbabwe's governance system with the ambitions of Vision 2030.

Hon. Speaker, I know a lot of points have been exhausted, but I just wanted to air my voice as such. I thank you.

**HON. O. SIBANDA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this opportunity. On Tuesday, I listened very attentively to the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs making a case for CAB 3. We are on opposite sides of the bench but I must say Hon. Z. Ziyambi made a compelling case of CAB 3 and pitched the debate very high. He made all of us take a step back and engage with CAB 3 for what it actually says. Our country is at an important crossroad. We must put the collective interest of our fellow citizens first. Zimbabwe is our country born out of a bitter war of national liberation. We must preserve our national unity, security and stability and build a new national consensus based on a shared understanding of our future.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3 has ignited a nationwide rigorous debate. Our citizens are to be applauded for exercising their citizenship duty to speak on matters of national common interest. As our party has already indicated, I support the spirit and the intent of CAB 3, so that I do not repeat things, which have already been said. Allow me to address just a few aspects of the Bill.

On the electoral cycle, I do not think there is anyone who can contest that our country has, without exception, held elections, which have been toxic. Our elections have caused a lot of suffering for many innocent citizens. Some have died, some have lost their houses and in some instances, members of the same family have fought over politics. This should end. We need to have a kind of peace, stability and prosperity. In my view, if we increase the election cycle from the current five years to seven years as the Bill proposes, we give our country peace, stability and security. We protect our people from violence, which I have spoken about. Peace is absolutely a necessity. I am confident that as we continue to build our country in peace and stability, the future of elections will be held in an environment of mature politics. We need to pause from toxic politics. We must avoid putting our citizens in unnecessary harm . I must be understood properly. I am saying that between now and the next election, we must increase political tolerance by deliberate Government and led voters' education.

Let me also support the Bill insofar as it says the President of the country must be elected by Parliament. This reduces political

tension, as I have stated already. If Hon. Members of Parliament are elected by citizens in a free and fair election, the results will be the legitimate will of our people and these Hon. Members of Parliament can then elect the President clearly. This reduces political tension. We must always remember that if Hon. Members of Parliament can legitimately remove the Head of State by impeachment and do so representing our citizens, then the same Hon. Members of Parliament should be able to elect the President.

On change of mandate of election records to the Registrar's Office, the custodians of our voters' roll, the Registrar's office should start now to prepare for coming elections. They should hold citizens records properly and transparent. We should not have the disputes which we had during the time of Mr. Tobaiwa Mudede.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** On a point of order Mr Speaker Sir.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Yes.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** The Hon. Member is repeating what was said yesterday by the members from ZANU PF. It is actually repetitive, which is against the Standing Rules.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** There are many ways of killing a cat.

Please proceed.

**HON. O. SIBANDA:** I agree that the mandate of keeping records for elections should be transferred to the Registrar's office. While we are at it, since the Registrar's office is responsible for the population register and issuing of national identity documents, I promise that as soon as a person is issued a national identity number, the Registrar's office must immediately register such a person on the voters' roll. By this, I am proposing that voting age should be reduced to 16 years. We must include young people in the civic affairs of the country. This is in line with the new trends in established democracies like Australia, where voting age has been reduced to 16 years. Since there are changes to methods of voting for national leadership and changes for longer electoral cycles, we should include the pool of citizens who are able to vote in any election.

On the referendum, I have listened to the explanation of the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs about the difference between term limits and the electoral cycle. I have understood the explanation and it makes sense to me. I agree that

these changes that are being done in the national interest, that to hold a referendum in an environment that is not conducive to election is counterproductive.

On the Gender Commission, as the Deputy Chairperson of the ZWPC, the family unit remains the centre of everything, rights of men, women and how relationships of men and women are in this modern area of changes. In gender roles, it is any area, which requires special attention. Mr. Speaker Sir, while we have made significant progress, we are still far from realising rights of women and the rights of girl child. Doing away with the Gender Commission is taking a million steps backwards. Instead of removing the Gender Commission, we should strengthen it, we should allocate more human and financial resources.

Let me come to the issue of traditional leaders, respected institutions in our communities, particularly in rural areas; they should remain above politics. I, therefore, do not agree with the clause that seeks to allow traditional leaders to be in politics. I do not think that we should waste too much time on that clause. The clause is simply unworkable.

We know that some citizens of Zimbabwe are genuinely opposed to CAB 3 and the most contentious clauses are those relating to the methods of electing the President and the Head of State. With these genuine differences notwithstanding, we must continue to explore means of creating reasonable consensus on all matters relevant to our political hygiene. We implore all sectors of society to exercise political flexibility and reach compromises. It is possible to exercise fidelity to the obvious stated goals of finishing the objectives of the national liberation struggle and compromising on some objective clauses in Constitutional Bill Number 3. There are moments in history where compromises are enforced by objective conditions. To that end, we propose that erratically linked to the passing into law of CAB 3, all parties reach reasonable consensus on national priorities to be undertaken by the Zimbabwe State.

From the date of enactment of the Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3, if we cannot agree on how those who govern us are to be elected, let us at least agree on how we are governed. This graduates our politics from politics of personalities to substantive policy issues. Therefore, I propose that by no later than 30 days after

the enactment of CAB3, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission or Human Rights Commission should convene a national governance conference to hear and adopt the national priorities to be undertaken by the State. This conference is to be attended by all sectors of society. The resolution of this conference shall bind all organs of the State. To ensure that this happens and no one reneges on this, let there be a national consensus substantive clause. This clause will be in the transitional schedule and shall provide for the commencement date of CAB 3. This date shall be the date on which the conference adopts commonly agreed national priorities.

Mr. Speaker, now that we would change the electoral cycle and agree on national governance, each would be a step in uniting our people if we are to have a Government of national consensus. This Government will focus on the development and project completion, which the Bill has promised our citizens.

Lastly, I agree that we should increase the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court should be able to deal with the matters of the national interest. However, I wish to add that we should increase the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court to give

it power to hear all matters relating to land in Zimbabwe as well as all decisions, which happened in Matebeleland. By this, we ensure that we preserve the gains of the land reform process.

We protect, especially women headed homes and families, which received land during the land reform process. The land reform process must be declared for all to know that it is irreversible and continuous. By this, we can also ensure that the unresolved issue of *Gukurahundi* is the attention of the Constitutional Court.

**\*HON. MAKOPE:** Thank you for allowing me to add my voice to the debate before this august House. When the report was done by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, they gave an itinerary and indeed, they visited our constituencies. A lot of people from my constituency, Mwenezi, gave their own views. None of them were against the proposed amendments. All of them were in agreement. As families or as constituency members, we had discussions and we agreed. They say that they need to remain steadfast and not betray the cause because they are happy with all the clauses of CAB 3. So, I shall talk about their views on the Gender Commissioner.

Before going any further into what they said I should deliver in my debate, I want to thank the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for a job well done. I say so because up until now, we are following the correct procedure. There were several issues that were being raised from other constituencies or from other stakeholders. They talked about the issue of a referendum but that was non-existent in our constituency. Today, those that were interested in the referendum would be before the courts, accusing the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of saying they used a referendum when a referendum was not required. They would have been talking today of Section 16, which talks of the land and Section 4, which talks of the human rights, together with 328 and using those sections as evidence that the Minister misdirected himself.

The Minister did not misdirect himself; he was spot on and I want to thank him for the manner that he has handled this Bill. I was thinking that I would give a pertinent example that a lot of people struggle with using motor vehicles. If you have a tyre puncture that requires you to use a number 16 spanner to remove the wheel, and then you use an 18 spanner, it will not be possible to remove that tyre.

So, the wheel spanner that we need to use is not the one for referendum but the one that we are using currently. Even if we were going to use the referendum, the majority of the people were going to give the same views and nothing was going to change. I am grateful about that. I want to clarify about the issue that was being said by other people because it has been debated at length. A term extension does not talk about the change in the term limits. It is the lengthening of the term of the President. In that, the President will still run for two terms. There was an amendment from the current five years to seven years and an addition of two more years.

I was once a teacher. There was a time some years ago when we had COVID-19. Whenever schools opened and closed, we would have different dates. I recall one year when schools had to be closed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August for the second term. We were then told that we should close around 29 August because of a potential serious outbreak in December, so more time was needed for school children to extend. So, as a teacher, I was supposed to allow children to say that we are now in the third term when we were still in the second term in August. We only said that the second term had an extension of days

but we have not entered the third term. So this should be the same as regards the issue of the term extension. It is still second term which is being given to the President. We also want to go further and clarify that when the law is being crafted, it is not static. The constant thing about the law is change and you should take into account the socio-economic activities of the day. So, when we look at our laws, they only talk about a Member of Parliament who is in Parliament or the current President. It talks about the future President and other generations to come. We want to ensure that once the debate is raised, people should not think that Hon. Makope wants to benefit from the term extension; that is not the issue.

There was a lot of debate around the Members of Parliament electing the President. A lot of things were said in support of that amendment. I want to make a minor addition. When we look at our history, a few years back, those who wanted to run for the office of President were 100. There were several Excellences because of these candidates who were vying for the office of the President. So, we are of the view that when we talk about the ballot paper, we had a headache on how to put the 50 candidates on the ballot paper.

So, the voters would be opening several pages to look for the rightful candidates that they would want to vote for as President and a lot of spoiled papers would be found. The issue that Parliament should now elect the President does not waste our time and money. It shall not confuse us, so I will support it. I do not want to belabour the point. This was well debated. Let me now talk about the traditional leadership that should now be given an opportunity to fully exercise their right in political issues. My view and that of my constituents is that this is a good amendment, and for us to fully understand, I would want to go back to the history of Zimbabwe.

In the history of Zimbabwe, chiefs and the spirit mediums emerged, and they were the leaders of the struggle for the land or the war that was waged to protect our soil. The likes of *Sekuru Kaguvi*, Mbuya Nehanda and King Lobengula fought the colonialists, and they led from the front. They were involved in political issues. King Lobengula signed treaties, the Rudd Concession, the Moffat and he would even send his emissaries to see the Queen.

By so doing, they were involved in politics. We come back to Zimbabwe, we have the likes of the late Rekayi Tangwena and

Mangwende. They fought in the liberation struggle, and their children, the likes of Chingaira and Ndiweni, paved the way for them to participate in politics and they ended up creating political parties which we now have.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of order.

**THE. HON. SPEAKER:** What is your point of order Hon. Hamauswa?

**\*HON. HAMAUSWA:** I wanted to assist the Hon. Member to take the country back to the chiefs.

**THE. HON. SPEAKER:** I did not get your point of order.

**\*HON. HAMAUSWA:** Well, I rise to assist the Hon. Member that we should give the country back to the chiefs and the MPs should not be involved because they are the owners of the land.

**THE. HON. SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order, it is a point of debate. Why do you not wait for your time to debate? Hon. Member, please continue.

**\*HON. MAKOPE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me proceed. I was talking about the importance of our chiefs when they came up with political movements such as ZANU-PF and ZAPU. The

revolutionaries that we had, the late Chitepo, Mugabe and the current President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, they would fulfill the wishes of the chiefs and they had a consensus. When we got independence in 1980, the liberation fighters and their leaders came up with a Government. There was an acting concept between the chiefs and the leaders of the liberation struggle. So, the chiefs would bring in leadership and the army that leads the revolution.

The leaders of the revolution and the army then produced the current Government that we have today. These are interrelated activities. Once one of them is removed, there will be a *lacuna*. It will not be good to remove the chiefs because there will be differences or gaps. There is an argument that the chief cannot be fair because he would now belong to a political party when there is a dispute between political parties. Once a chief has been appointed, he knows the ethics that govern chieftainship.

We have Members of Parliament who are chiefs, or we have other people who have other portfolios that they hold. So, if I am a leader and as a Member of Parliament in the communal lands, I will

be leading as a chief and I will be leading them as a Member of Parliament, and I will be apolitical.

Finally, I would want to end with the issue of the Gender Commission. The view is that we need to leave it alone because it has work that has not been fulfilled. What has been lacking is adequate provision of funding. Once it is embedded in the Human Rights Commission as a department, it then loses visibility and is unable to carry out its mandate. Even the funding to carry out the activities would be inadequate.

So, it should be left alone and it has its own funding so that it can fulfil its mandate. It can fulfil the wishes and aspirations of the Zimbabwean people. That is our considered view. I thank you for allowing me to give my views on my own behalf and on behalf of the Mwenezi Constituency. Before I sit down, I want to thank His Excellency the President who gave us 32 VBU boreholes. You cannot fail to thank such a good activity; hence people are saying that he should continue and finish all the projects that are before him. I thank you.

**HON. KUDHLANDE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and good morning. I rise to add my voice in support of the Constitution Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB 3). I will debate five clauses.

Firstly, Presidential election by Parliament. Mr. Speaker Sir, under this clause, Members of Parliament and Senators will elect the President instead of holding a direct public vote. This saves money. National elections cost over USD100 million, yet a Parliament vote costs almost nothing. The funds saved can cover several projects. It also reduces violence. Direct elections often cause disputes but a Parliament vote is quick and peaceful. Further, it promotes unity.

The President must secure support from MPs across the country, ensuring cooperation with Parliament from day one. Results are immediate, with no six-week delays for counting and court cases. I will always give an example of Chimanimani, the people I represent. The money saved can help accelerate the completion of the Cyclone Idai recovery project, which includes Runyararo Housing Project, among others.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my second debate focuses on term extension from five to seven years. This clause extends presidential and

parliamentary terms from five to seven years. It allows leaders to complete projects and Vision 2030 targets require time. A seven-year term prevents half-built projects. It means more governing and less campaigning. Leaders will spend more time working and less time seeking re-election. It also builds investors' confidence. Stability attracts factories and creates jobs.

Countries like Rwanda and Venezuela have seven-year presidential terms and Rwanda is now among Africa's fastest-growing economies – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - In our case, seven years provides time to finish the Rusitu Valley Irrigation Scheme, repair Chimanimani, Mutare Road and build disaster-proof clinics without election interruptions.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my third debate centers on voter registration by the Registrar-General, not ZEC. This clause transfers voters' registration to the Registrar-General's Office. It creates a one-stop shop. The Registrar-General already issues identification cards and birth certificates, making registration faster for citizens. It cuts duplications. One system instead of two saves taxpayer money. Mr. Speaker Sir, it ensures year-round access. The Registrar-General's

offices operate in every district throughout the year, unlike ZEC's temporary mobile centres. Villagers in our constituencies can now register at a local Registrar-General's office instead of waiting for the ZEC mobile to come.

My fourth debate looks at restructuring the Gender Commission and the NPRC. Mr. Speaker Sir, this clause merges commissions to improve efficiency. It saves money by removing duplication of salaries, vehicles and offices. It enables faster decisions; fewer bodies mean less bureaucracy and quicker resolution of complaints. A single, stronger body can respond faster to women and youth affected by cyclones and resolve disputes over humanitarian aid.

My last debate is on traditional leadership conduct and jurisdiction. Mr. Speaker Sir, this clause provides clear rules defining chiefs' powers. It protects our culture. Chiefs become official partners in development and can defend the Executive side. It delivers fast local justice. Disputes can be resolved faster without lengthy court processes. For example, this empowers chiefs to stop illegal mining activities and mediate land disputes in recycling areas quickly. Mr. Speaker Sir, CAB 3 saves money, brings stability and takes services

closer to the people. In our case, it means better roads, peace and a strong voice. I strongly support this Bill. I submit. Thank you.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to debate. I thank you for your presence in the Speaker's seat. It brings decency to this august House. I feel encouraged. I am going to speak on behalf of the Budiro South Constituency without hiding behind a finger. The people in Budiro said no to CAB 3. I inquired whether there would be anything that they would be happy about in CAB 3. They are in total disagreement with the Bill in its entirety. So, I may not be able to debate all the issues but I will start with the crux of the matter, as was said by the Minister, as to why we should have a term extension.

Hon. Speaker, he spoke of elections causing disharmony and disagreements and for us to ensure that we get rid of these, we should get rid of elections. This is not a good view when looking at the history of this country.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir. The Hon. Member cannot continue

debating without withdrawing his statement. My point of order is that the Hon. Member should withdraw his words in which he misled what the Minister said. Mr. Speaker, when somebody decides to quote what was said, the person must quote everything that was said. There is not a single sentence that said let us do away with elections.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, have you read the *Hansard*? You should quote the actual statement so that you can debate from an informed decision. Please be guided.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, let me go further and say ...

**\*HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** The Hon Member cannot go ahead with debating without withdrawing his statement that the elections must be done away with.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon Member, you have to withdraw. The Hon. Minister did not say that the elections must be done away with.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Hon Speaker. Let me withdraw and then make an amendment.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Without an amendment.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** I withdraw Hon. Speaker. A lot of elections have been conducted but it is not the elections that cause disharmony in this country. Some of us, who have done data science, can easily tell you what happened. We can tell you that the root of violence during elections is ZANU-PF. If you look Hon. Speaker...

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order, order. Hon Member, again this refers to the issue of being factual. Do not make reckless statements because there is no evidence of what you are saying. Can you proceed?

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The idea I intended to express is that if you look at it, we have several political parties.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon Member must withdraw because here we are not talking about parties but about the Bill. He must withdraw that serious allegation.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Hon Member, as per my ruling, there is no evidence put forward. So, the statement needs to be withdrawn.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Hon. Speaker, I think I am being bullied here. I did not accuse ZANU-PF but I am simply saying...

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Member, can you withdraw the statement!

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Okay Hon. Speaker, I withdraw my words. Let me rush through my submission. This topic is very important and the whole nation is listening. I want to say, what is required for us not to have some disputes is...

**\*HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. We want to hear from you Hon. Speaker, as to how many warnings must be given to an Hon. Member to withdraw so that they will not continue to repeat what they have done.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** The general rule is three. So, Hon Member, if you continue making statements that are unsubstantiated, I will ask you to sit down. You can proceed.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated earlier on, this debate is important. I was saying that we cannot resolve a problem of violence that occurs during elections by adding two more years. We cannot resolve it that way. The perfect way to resolve this challenge is for us to have what we call electoral reforms. It is very simple. We do not need a Bill, but we need political reforms. Secondly, Mr. Speaker...

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Mr. Speaker, it was mentioned that we are solving the problem of electoral violence by extending the term. It was not said anywhere and I challenge that even if we go to the *Hansard*, I never said in my speech that we are solving the problem of electoral violence by increasing the term of the President. It must be put on record because I never said that and he must withdraw because no one said that.

**HON. GUMBO:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker. Point of order.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order, order, order! Hon Member, can you be orderly?

**HON. GUMBO:** We are raising a point of order Mr. Speaker. The Minister is responding but he will get the time to respond. He gave the speech and he will respond at a given time. No. Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow that.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order. Hon. Member, in terms of our Standing Orders, when you have an Hon. Member on the floor, you cannot intervene. You wait until [AN HON. MEMBER: *Inaudible interjections*] - If you are going to argue with me, I am going to throw you out of the House. Follow the Standing Rules and Orders. The Hon. Minister was on the floor. You wait until he is finished and I have made a ruling. That is the procedure. Hon. Member, I am advising you that let us follow our Standing Orders. When a Member is on the floor and, in this case, it was the Hon. Minister, you cannot raise a point of order until the Hon. Member has finished. The Hon. Minister was trying to put the record straight. Thank you.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, let me continue with my debate. My idea was for us to resolve our challenges without adding two more years. I also want to tackle another idea that was expressed that if the President is like Mbappe when he is in the 18 area, he must not be disturbed. We cannot live like that Hon. Speaker.

**HON. MUSWEWESHIRI:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Who is raising a point of order?

**HON. MUSWEWESHIRI:** I am here.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you do not raise a point of order while the Chair is speaking. Can you sit down! Hon. Member, this is the third time I am advising you. You cannot say His Excellency the President is Mbappe. Can you take the floor and withdraw the Mbappe issue?

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Let me continue with my debate. My idea is: let us resolve our challenges without adding two more years. I also want to tackle another idea that was expressed that the President is like Mbappe; he is nearing the end

of his term and we must give him time to finish his projects. We cannot live like that, Hon. Speaker. Why I am saying this....

**HON. MUSWEWESHIRI:** On a point of order Hon. Speaker.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Who is raising a point of order?

**HON. MUSWEWESHIRI:** I am raising a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** You do not raise a point of order while the Chair is speaking. Can you sit down! Hon. Member, this is the third time I am advising you. You cannot say His Excellency the President is Mbappe – [*Laughter*] – Order Hon. Members! Hon. Member, can you take the floor and withdraw the Mbappe issue – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**HON. G. HLATYWAYO:** On a point of order.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** You are pointing; I do not see what you are pointing at. I said the Hon. Member should withdraw; that is my ruling.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I withdraw.

So, my idea, Hon. Speaker, is if you look at most of our leaders today, they took part in the liberation struggle, they suffered during the liberation struggle and the struggle ended in 1980. They never went back to the ghetto or to the rural homes; they are now staying in low-density suburbs. They cannot understand us who are coming from the ghetto. So, for you to stand up, Hon. Speaker, and say that life is good in Zimbabwe when someone has attended a wedding party for *Zvigananda* – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections*] - If you want to understand this issue Hon. Speaker.....

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** If you want to understand this issue....

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Member! You are casting aspersions again and I am not allowing you to continue, thank you - [AN HON. MEMBER: *Ngaagare pasi uyu.*] – [AN HON. MEMBER: *On a point of order Hon. Speaker.*] - There is no point of order, Hon. Mutodi has not spoken. Sit down. – [AN HON. MEMBER: *It is a matter of precedent, we need to....*] - Can you sit down! Hon. Mutodi has said no word and you want to come up with a point of order, that is unprocedural.

**HON. DR. MUTODI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, the bedrock of our republic is *res publica*, which is the public thing. Section 2 (1) declares this Constitution to be supreme law, and Section 3 (2) (c) grounds our authority in *vox populi, vox dei*: the voice of the people is supreme. Hon. Speaker Sir, our electoral system flows from section 124 and section 155, which provide for universal suffrage...

[*Power outage.*]

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order! Sergeant-at-Arms, can you check what is happening. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - Can you check, Sergeant-at-Arms, the one who is tampering with the lighting? Hon. Mutodi, please take the floor. Can we hear the Hon. Member in silence, please!

**HON. DR. MUTODI:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to the debate on Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3. Hon. Speaker Sir, the bedrock of our republic is *res publica*, which is the public thing. Section 2 (1) declares this Constitution as the supreme law. Section 3 (2) (c)

grounds our authority in *vox populi, vox dei*, which means the voice of the people is supreme.

Our electoral system flows from Section 124 and Section 155, which provide for universal suffrage, periodic elections, and representative democracy. However, *res publica* does not mandate direct democracy on every issue. Rather, it mandates that sovereignty is exercised by the people through their representatives which they elect. That is the foundation of *protestas delegata populi*, power delegated by the people.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the *justa causa* for this amendment lies in our electoral history. Since the year 2013, Zimbabwe has had three presidential elections and each of them has been disputed twice. This has resulted in petitions being delivered in this august House, examples being Tsvangirai *versus* Mugabe (2013) and Chamisa *versus* Mnangagwa (2018). Yet parliamentary elections have generated very little contention. One would ask why? This is because, Hon. Speaker, the direct presidential ballots under Section 92 concentrate stakes, cost, and litigation in one context. The weaknesses are glaring.

1. Polarisation. Hon. Speaker, the winner takes all presidency creates a zero-sum contest.
2. Cost and disruption. National elections every five years divert budget and policy focus from service delivery.
3. Succession gaps. Section 101 forces a 90-day election upon a vacancy in the office of the President, an exercise which is expensive and rushed.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, these are not political complaints. They are structural defects in Section 92 and Section 110, as currently framed in our Constitution. *Salus populi suprema lex esto*, therefore, applies and it means the welfare of the people must be supreme law. When a structure repeatedly produces a crisis, *justa causa* exists to amend it under Section 328.

Let me now go to the clause that talks about Parliament as an electoral college. This Bill proposes amending Section 92, so the President is elected by Parliament, not by direct popular ballot. Hon. Speaker, this is not a new democratic practice as countries such as

South Africa, India, Germany and the UK elect their head of Government through Parliament. The doctrine that supports this is *qui facit per alium facit per se*, and it means that he who acts through another does the acts himself. If you do an act through one's hand, you have done it yourself. Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected under universal suffrage in Section 155 and when 280 MPs vote, they are not voting for themselves. They are *potestas delegata*, exercising power delegated to them by five million plus voters.

*Vox Populi* is therefore not diminished. It is rather institutionalised. Parliamentary election increases accountability because under Sections 97 and 98, the same Parliament can remove a President who loses confidence. The question that arises is *quis custodiet ipsos custodes* or who watches the watchers, who guards the guards? With this new model proposed under Constitution Amendment Bill No.3 (CAB 3), Parliament answers that question.

I now move on to the clause that deals with the extension of term from five to seven years. Hon. Speaker, this Bill extends the presidential and parliamentary terms from five to seven years. The doctrine applicable here is *tempus regit actum*, which means time

governs the act. A five-year cycle creates perpetual electoral mode. However, seven years allows Government to fulfil Section 13, national objectives and Sections 76 to 77, socioeconomic rights, without budget disruption every 48 months. Again, the Government doctrine is *lex posterior derogat priori*, a later law repeals an earlier one. -[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-Section 328 gives...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order. Hon. Members, shall we keep our whispers low and allow the Hon. Member to debate in silence, please?

*Hon. Mavhudzi having addressed the Chair whilst seated.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mavhudzi, are you aware that you are speaking to the Speaker of Parliament? -

[*Laughter*] - You cannot address the Chair sitting down and without being recognised. We only do that when we are in a beerhall but in this House, no.

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for recognising me...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** No, I did not recognise you. Take your seat. Please, let us have a bit of respect for the House and allow the Hon. Member to debate in silence. Hon. Mutodi, please carry on.

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Point of privilege Mr. Speaker. I want to enquire about the language being used by Hon. Mutodi. Is it Latin or *Nkwaya*? I know that he sings *Rumba*, so may he clarify? We do not know the language that he is using. -[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Chigumbu, I think there is a time for playing and a time for being serious. There is also a time for respect and you cannot refer to Hon. Mutodi's *Rumba* aspect, it is wrong. Can you withdraw that!

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** I withdraw Mr. Speaker, but may he explain if it is *Nkwaya* or *Rumba*?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mutodi, please continue. **HON. DR. MUTODI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker.

What I am

pronouncing are legal terms which are in the legal profession. Hon. Speaker, if this Bill passes with two-thirds majority and goes on to receive presidential assent...

**\*HON. MATAMBO:** On a point of privilege. Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before you took the Chair, the Hon. Speaker instructed the Sergeant-at-Arms to go and enquire who was tampering with the electricity. We then saw the Hon. Speaker leaving the House and then the Sergeant-at-Arms is back. We want to understand since it was said openly. We want to know what was happening. We say that because we want to ensure our safety here in Parliament. Thank you. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! Hon. Matambo, can you stand up from there, go outside and check where the electricity is being tampered with. Go out now, leave the House!

**\*HON. MATAMBO:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am now leaving the House but I am coming back. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! You are lucky that I said that you are coming back after 10 minutes but next time you are

not to come back. Go right now and look into that. We want to do business here, so go out for 10 minutes. Hon. Mutodi, you may proceed.

**\*HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of privilege Mr. Speaker. How can you send someone outside? *Tarisai magetsi akudzima*, it is a security matter. It was said by Hon. Speaker when he was seated in that Chair that someone was tampering with the electricity and you want me to remain in the House. I have children Mr. Speaker whom I am supposed to take care of. I want to know if I am safe.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** So why are you shouting? Can you take your seat. Hon. Hamauswa, let us not pull each other's legs here. The Sergeant-at-Arms is back seated right there. If we had any security issues, we were going to articulate them properly to you. Let us not do it for grandstanding. We cannot do that. Can we respect each other. Hon. Chigumbu, can we respect each other? Hon. Mutodi, please go ahead.

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** Point of privilege Mr. Speaker Sir. Is it painful to give us feedback?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Makumire, as I said, if there was any issue or problem, it was going to be communicated. Let me assure you that we are very safe. Let me also assure you further that while we are safe, we are ably led by the President of Zimbabwe. Hon. Mutodi, you may continue.

**HON. SAGANDIRA:** On a point of order!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order because nothing has been said. I just put a ruling to say we are safe. So, I do not know where your point of order arises from. Your point of order does not arise at the moment. Please take your seat.

**\*HON. SAGANDIRA:** If we have security, we are requesting that the Member whom you have sent outside, may he please come back?

**HON. DR. MUTODI:** I was in the middle of saying the governing doctrine is *lex posterior delegat priori*. The later law repeals an earlier one. Section 328 gives Parliament powers to amend this Constitution. If this Bill passes with a two-thirds majority and goes on to receive a presidential assent, it becomes *lex posterior* to the current five-year provision. *Dura lex, sed lex*- the law is harsh and

unfavourable to some but it is the law because procedure makes it valid.

**HON. MABVUDZI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, and Latin is not one of them. Hon. Mutodi is debating in Latin, and we are losing him. Could he please kindly stick to the 16 languages of Zimbabwe? Thank you very much.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mutodi's debate has got grafting of legal language. Therefore, legal language is permissible here in Parliament as much as it is permissible anywhere, even in the courts. If you want to find out about all this, you will go to your *Hansard*, and you will learn one or two things as well while you are at it. It is a good thing for you. You now know a couple of words that you did not know. So please, allow Hon. Mutodi to carry on with the debate.

**HON. DR. MUTODI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. On the issue of a referendum, I recognise the *obiter dicta* that have preceded the submissions in this House and also some views widely shared on social media. I now propose the idealised *Ratio Decidendi* that fits the final determination on this Bill if ever it were to be presented before a

constitutional court, Hon. Speaker; some have said a referendum is mandatory. With due respect, the Constitution says otherwise. The *ratio decidendi*. I propose for this Bill is as follows: "Section 328(6) mandates a referendum only for amendments to Chapter 4, 16 and Section 328. Amendments to this Bill do not alter Section 4 'National Anthem, Flag, Public Seal' nor Section 16 which deals with 'Fundamental Rights and Freedoms'.

The Bill also does not amend Section 91(2) which provides for the ineligibility of anyone elected twice to the office of President and has served at least 3 years in each term. However, it amends Section 92 which deals with the method used in electing the President and the length of term. Under Section 328(6)(c), 'term of office' refers to limits, not length. Therefore, Section 328(6) is not triggered.

Parliament may pass this Bill under Section 328(5) with a two-thirds majority alone." The legal arguments are: *Expressio unius est exclusio alterius*- which means what the Constitution did not mention must remain excluded; hence, by listing specific triggers in 328(6), the Constitution excludes all others. The *verba legis* or eligibility in 328(6)(c) is not a method. We change the method in Section 92, not

eligibility in Section 91. Another principle is *generalia specialibus non derogant* (general provisions do not derogate special provisions). Section 328(5) is therefore the general rule while Section 328(6) is the exception. No trigger, no referendum.

Public Hearings and Public Expression: we heard the people during public hearings. Some supported stability. Some feared concentration of power in the executive. All views are valid in a democracy. But *quod omnes tangit, ab omnibus approbetur*- what touches all must be approved by all. That approval comes through two gates: a 2/3 majority of representatives here, and the Presidential assent. If Section 328(6) were triggered, we would add a referendum. Unfortunately, it is not triggered, as we have noted earlier. Public input has been recorded and will guide the opinion of Hon. Members, but it cannot override the text of Section 328.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** On a point of order, Hon. Speaker!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Chigumbu!

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** Hon. Speaker, I want to follow what Hon. Mutodi is saying. I do not understand what *obiter dicta* is. Can he also then give a definition whenever he uses a Latin word? I want to

follow his debate, but he is saying *obiter dicta* and I do not know what it means. Or else, can you provide us with a translator?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Order! As I said, if you want to follow Hon. Mutodi's speech, you can check with the *Hansard*. There are explanations. Order! Order! Every time Hon. Mutodi uses Latin expressions, he goes on to explain them. Are you not listening? It is allowed.

**HON. DR. MUTODI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, for protecting me. I now propose the idealised *ratio decidendi* that fits the final determination.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Please take your seat, Hon. Matewu.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Mr. Speaker, the only danger that I am seeing here started yesterday when some Hon. Members started attacking one Hon. Member who is a lady when she was debating. We saw it today and we are seeing it again. Members are causing a lot of noise. We want to listen. I think anyone keen on seeing us debating should keep quiet and sit down.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Chief Whip. Hon Member, to what extent do you want to keep on doing this? We have all agreed here that no Hon. Member shall not get their chance to debate. We simply mean that if you have any view contrary to what is being said by another Member, you will have your turn to stand up and debate that. These issues of points of order and disruptions are not helping us at all. Even the people back there at home that are watching us on TV, what are they supposed to think of us?

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** The Government Chief Whip has taken words from my mouth. I was going to say, the path that we are now taking as this House is very dangerous to the extent that even those who are supporting the CAB 3 will find it very difficult to think that this Parliament will do something good for this nation. I was thinking that we need to reach a compromise, that maybe we say these issues of points of order and whatnot, are now a thing of the past. Let us agree that even the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, even when we make certain errors that are understandable, should also not lead in the points of order. We end up reacting

because we are the same people. What has happened from our side, was a reaction to an inaudible interjection that was coming from the other side. I think, as you have said Mr. Speaker, and as suggested by the Government Chief Whip, may we respect this House. We also think that from this side, we can also be paid researchers for the ruling party. They can take some good advice from what we are going to debate. We want peace. We want to debate for the benefit of this country. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You have said a very mature thing that I hope all Hon. Members can take and embrace. It is good to have some sort of decorum and carry ourselves honorably. We cannot behave like hooligans because it does not suit our status as Hon. Members. Hon. Mutodi, I am going to allow you to enjoy your five minutes because you have been interrupted.

**HON. DR. MUTODI:** Due to the disruptions, I will skip some points from my speech and require that it be recorded in the *Hansard*.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** Point of order!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** We just agreed to try and minimise points of order.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** No, it is different, very different. When you are in your house and you hear a sound outside or inside, you would be keen to know whether it is a rat or a snake. We are seeing some people taking photos from above. Who are those people taking photos from the Speaker's Gallery?

**HON. MUTODI:** Due to limited time, I will now skip a part of my speech to the clause on security services, changing from upholding the Constitution to working in accordance with the Constitution. On the clause changing the wording from upholding the Constitution to act in accordance with the Constitution, I must place it on record that Zimbabwe has one of the most professional armies in Africa.

*Hon. Makumire having stood up and started talking without being recognised by the Chair.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Makumire, you cannot just stand up and start talking without being recognised by the Chair. You cannot do that.

**HON. DR. MUTODI:** Since independence, our men and women in uniform have been the bedrock of our peace, sovereignty,

territorial integrity and development in every sphere. They have discharged their duties with professionalism, loyalty and dedication even during years of economic collapse.

However, Hon. Speaker, as we move from a purely Presidential system to a fully blown Parliamentary executive system in which Parliament elects the President, the *modus operandi* must shift to suit the new normal. The doctrine we must adhere to is *a Civis sub lege, mild sub-imperio*- while citizens are under the law, soldiers are under command.

When Parliament elects the President, we entrench *potestas parlamentaria suprema* , the supremacy of Parliament over the Executive. If the military oath still says ‘uphold or defend the Constitution’, that old wording can be read as we defend the Constitution against anyone who threatens it, including Parliament and the President. This gives the military a political role of guardianship. By changing the “Act in accordance with the Constitution and law”, we again answer the question: *quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* Who guards the guards? The answer, Hon. Speaker, is the *curiae, non castra* - the courts, not the barracks.

Therefore, under the new law, the military's job becomes obeying lawful civilian orders from Parliament and the President, with constitutional disputes settled by the Courts under Section 167. This prevents any claim that the military must defend the Constitution against parliamentary votes that it dislikes. Germany did it in 1956 when it shifted to electing a chancellor accountable to Parliament.

Furthermore, the doctrine *lex non contradicit legi* applies and it means that the law must not contradict this Parliament. The parliamentary election of the President makes the President accountable daily to Parliament under Sections 97 and 98 through no-confidence votes.

If the military oath says 'uphold the Constitution' but Parliament can remove the President and we also create ambiguity. For instance, who does the military uphold when Parliament and the President disagree? Who does the military obey when Parliament removes the President? This new wording, 'to obey orders in accordance with the Constitution', removes this contradiction. It harmonises the oath with the new structure under the doctrine *tempus regit actum* the law must match the time and structure it governs.

In conclusion, this Bill is about fixing design flaws not personalities. It applies *potestas parlamentaria suprema* under Section 328, respects vox populi, though *qui facit per alium facit per se* and uses lex posterior to bring stability.

If courts are petitioned, the binding ratio will be as follows: Section 328 grants plenary amendment power; Section 91 (2) limits election, not years and there is no basic structure doctrine in Zimbabwe to bar Parliament from making the proposed amendments. *Dura lex, sed lex.*

I would like to urge all Hon. Members in this august House to support CAB3. Let us choose stability over crisis, procedure over speculation and service for community over partisan interest. I thank you Hon. Speaker.

**\*HON. KARENJI:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I have a request. If you look at the list that you have, many people have a desire to debate. We wanted to debate since yesterday. If we say that a person must debate for 20 minutes, let us stick to 20 minutes so that we allow others to speak.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):** I do not know where you are getting that from because we are keeping time, but what is killing our time are those points of order. As the Chair, I have the right to indulge a person if I want to and I am sure you are going to know about that. It is there in the *Standing Orders*; go ahead and read it.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER**

### **VISITORS IN THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY**

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Members, I wish to recognise the presence in the Speaker's Gallery, of the Vice-Chancellor of the Harare Institute of Technology, Professor Engineer Kanhukamwe and his team. You are most welcome to the august House – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

**\*HON. GAVA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to support the Bill that is being debated here in Parliament. Before I get into my debate, I would want to thank our President, His Excellency Dr. Mnangagwa, for everything and the great work that he is doing in the country. If we are here in Parliament, we want to uphold the interests of the people.

Representing my people, representing the women in Mashonaland West, they asked me to go and express their views, which they agreed upon, in support of the CAB 3. Hon. Speaker, they say that repeated words are more powerful. If we look at the lengthening of the term by two years, it is a good idea because here in Parliament, some Members of Parliament have pending projects. It is good for the people to then have ample time to finish their projects without being hurried...

**HON. MATEWU:** On a point of order.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, what is your point of order, Hon. Matewu.

**HON. MATEWU:** Thank you for indulging me Mr. Speaker. We need to stick to the Bill. This Bill is not about us *per se*. Now when the Hon. Member says we want to finish the projects that we are doing, we now wonder. Is this Bill about us or is it about fixing the Constitution? The Hon. Member needs to stick to the Bill, not what she is saying. Thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I thought even the Speaker, when he was here, clearly articulated the issue of saying that there are

so many ways of killing a cat. Can you allow this cat to be killed in whichever way? The result is that you want the cat to be killed. Hon. Gava, can you please go ahead?

**\*HON. GAVA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me continue and go straight to the Presidential Elections and the Members of Parliament. There is nothing that can stop us from electing our President. Since we are the ones who elect the laws and we can also impeach the President, there is nothing that can stop us from electing the President.

Some singers say you must copy from the good garments. If we look at South Africa and Botswana, the Members of Parliament elect the President of the nation. As Zimbabweans, we also want to copy the good from them.

I am not going to sit down without supporting the issue of the Gender Commission because you see that we are also in Parliament as women. It is their duty. We want it to remain where it is. Thank you.

**+HON. V. MOYO:** Thank you for the opportunity you have given me. I want to add my voice to this constitutional amendment Bill which is before us. The Bill is an agreement or set of laws put in

place for the nation to be governable. It is also the point where there is separation of powers.

As I was going through, I noted that from 1979, during the liberation war and after the war of liberation, people from different political parties sat down and reached a consensus on how they were going to share power. This shows that there was a Constitution that was drafted in 1979 and it addressed the issues they were facing then.

In 1987, there was conflict and people were not of the same opinion. This was during the *Gukurahundi* period. People sat down and found ways to share the power and we went on to 2008 after the elections. People sat down again and amended the Constitution.

In 2017, the political parties that were present sat down and paved a way on how to go forward. Presently, we are seated here as the opposition party; we are representing people who elected us. We are discussing ways and how we can share powers and move forward.

I will first speak on Clause 2, which speaks about the voters' roll. Worldwide, there are three systems which were tried and tested and proved that they are very useful if you are trying to register voters. The first one states that after a short period, citizens are given

a chance to go and register to vote if they desire to vote. The second one is that people are always continuously registering to vote. The third one, which the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs...

**+THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Members, lower your voices and allow Hon. Moyo to be heard in silence. Hon. Moyo, if the Speaker gives an order, you should sit down and switch off your gadgets. You can proceed.

**+HON. V. MOYO:** Apologies Mr. Speaker Sir. I concur with what you have said. As I was saying, the third way is giving the Registrar the responsibility to register voters, I support this.

I have two reasons; the first one is that in Hwange West, especially Victoria Falls, we only see ZEC personnel when we are about to go for elections. These offices are only found in Hwange, which is a distance from where we reside. We are using the Registrar as easily and cheaply because we are using resources and infrastructure that belong to the Government.

The Commission that oversees the elections was created in 2004. Looking at the way they have been operating, all of us agree

that, including that, there are shortcomings in their operations. We are also not economically stable, so I am not expecting them to improve from what they have been doing. Hence, I support that the voters roll should be the Registrar's responsibility.

Another clause that I want to look into is Clause 3. Zimbabwe is a country which is still growing economically and politically. It is possible that towards the election we do not see eye to eye. We end up having the election processes not being done effectively because the Commission will be overwhelmed.

I respect and support what is proposed in the Bill that Members of Parliament be given powers to elect the President. I do not end there; the Hon. Minister also stated that it is a way to reduce political violence during the election period. I also want to copy the South African system, whereby the number of Members of Parliament from a political party is determined by the votes that they would have obtained from the polls. It should not just be applied to the presidential position. It should even cascade to Parliament.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER**

### **VISITORS IN THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY**

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I wish to recognise the presence in the Speaker's Gallery, of teachers and pupils from Tshovani Primary School in Chiredzi. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - Order, you are most welcome to the august House, you may take your seats.

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** On a point of privilege Mr. Speaker Sir!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! Is it because you are from Chiredzi Hon. Makumire? Yes, what did you want to say?

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I just want to greet the students from my constituency. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I am sure they heard that Hon. Makumire. Hon. Moyo, you may proceed with your debate.

**+HON. V. MOYO:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. As I continue to add to what I have narrated, there is no vote that is useless, which means that even political parties with minority votes have the authority to come and sit here in Parliament or in councils so that they can contribute to these councils. Using numbers, emphasises the issue

of unity. We all know that we are not equal. We know there are people with a lot of money who would love to get into politics. This way, there is nothing perfect about getting into political office.

In my last submission Mr Speaker, I will look at Section 49, which addresses our traditional leaders' participation in political issues. I listened to a message, which came from the Chairperson of the Committee when he was presenting here. He said that the traditional leaders also appeared before the Committee and submitted their views. The chiefs themselves said they do not want to participate in political issues. Hence, I stand in support of what the chiefs said, that they do not want to participate in political affairs. Let us respect the chiefs' views. I thank you.

**+THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Moyo for putting the submission in fluent Ndebele. We encourage Hon. Members and the public to speak their languages in totality, so that they do not fade away. Thank you.

**HON. NGWENYA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this Bill. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the people of Gokwe North, that is in Gumunyu, whom I represent,

who are in support of this Bill, that is Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3, 2026. Sections 141 and 328 of our Constitution place a duty on Parliament to consult people, then legislate; that duty has been fulfilled Mr. Speaker.

The people have spoken through irrefutable matrix submissions; figures and the public hearings attendance reflect that. Both confirm one thing: Zimbabwe chose stability, continuity and development - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – I, therefore, urge Parliament to pass this Bill. Figures, Mr. Speaker, presented in this House prove that extensive consultations were done. The constitutional test was consultations, which were well done.

The Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee confirmed that a total of 537 102 people supported the Bill and a meagre 2 935 opposed it. Mr. Speaker Sir, this figure of submissions is not tokenism. For context, it actually exceeds the combined number of rural districts in our country. Also, the 90-day window was real, and Zimbabweans used it to make their submissions.

Mr. Speaker, when COPAC was tabled in 2013, we celebrated reaching a million views over two years. But here, we had only 90

days of focused submissions and over half a million people made submissions. We have surpassed the figure from 2013 because in just 90 days, we had over half a million people submit. That is meaningful participation and to ignore it is to ignore the Constitution. Public hearing figures show majority support.

Mr. Speaker Sir, numbers must be verified on the ground. So, Parliament held hearings from 13<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April across all 64 districts. Even the independent observers like the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission acknowledged that the consultations were highly attended and included a broad section of women, men, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Venues were publicised and accessible, and facilities for written submissions were provided. Most critically, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission indicated that across all monitored venues, most submissions were in support of the Constitutional Amendment Bill, CAB 3. In particular, my district, Gokwe North, is an example where everyone supported the Bill to continue progress until 2030. These figures, Mr. Speaker Sir, indicate democracy. That is democracy at work whereby democracy

is majority rule with minority rights protected. So, the majority was heard and the minority was recorded. That is constitutional compliance – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

Mr. Speaker Sir, we are legislators, not spectators. Our job is to translate what the public has said into law – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**HON. TOGAREPI:** On a point of order! I think there is a reckless tendency among some Hon. Members here to call people by name who are not part of this House. Our Standing Orders prohibit us from speaking about people who are not in this House. So, there is that Hon. Member who shouted that the Hon. Member debating has his speech written by somebody else who is not in this House. I think that is careless talk.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Government Chief Whip. Order Hon. Members. Where are we going to draw the line for respect and decorum honestly, if we are going to behave that way? We cannot micro-manage you as if we are managing pupils from Tshovani Primary School in Chiredzi. They are

even quiet and orderly. No, we cannot do that. I want to beg of you to exercise a bit of restraint and respect for each other, please!

**HON. NGWENYA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I had indicated that as legislators, we are not spectators. Our job is to translate public will into law. The wishes and intents of the public will be documented. As I indicated, Mr. Speaker, 470 117 submissions were received and analysed. There was a high turnout in all 64 districts and a cross-section of society was present, as I indicated. The majority, as I said were, as we all know, in support of this Bill, as also indicated by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. Our people were clear in their message. They wanted development, stability and completion of Vision 2030 projects.

Therefore, in a sense, to reject CAB 3 is to reject over half a million representatives, Zimbabweans. We represented all our people. These people were all in favour of the Bill and it complied with Section 328 of our Constitution. So, to pass CAB 3 is to honour Section 141 which speaks to public involvement, which was done.

I, therefore, call upon all Hon. Members in this House to observe the will of the people. People have decided. Let us listen to them as their representatives by passing this Bill. I thank you.

**HON. PRISCILLA MOYO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to share my views and support for this very important Bill. I represent Mwenezi West Constituency. My contribution will be in two parts. Firstly, I will touch on Clauses 2, 3 and 4. Secondly, I will contribute to the proposal to abolish the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

Mr Speaker Sir, regarding Clause 2 which proposes that the functions relating to the registration of voters be transferred to the Registrar General's Office, I concur with this and support this proposal, given that the office is the custodian of birth and death records in the country. This means that the records will be accurate and up to date, enhancing the credibility of the voters' roll.

With respect to Clause 4 of this Bill which provides that the election of the President is now to be conducted in Parliament, this proposal is most welcome as it aligns with practices in other countries

within the region and elsewhere. Most of these countries have been mentioned before.

In doing so, Parliamentarians will be exercising a representative role bestowed upon them by other constituencies. The proposal to extend the electoral cycle, consequently, the terms of office of the President, Members of Parliament and the council from the current five years to seven years is also welcome.

In many countries, there are various electoral cycles and presidential terms. This proposal is particularly important in recognition of the various achievements that His Excellency the President, E. D. Mnangagwa, has registered within the relatively short period he has been in office. Granting him more time will ensure that the economy benefits further from his servant leadership, while creating greater space for the country to concentrate on development rather than being preoccupied with short and recurring electoral cycles.

I would also like to take this opportunity to add my voice regarding the proposal contained in this Bill to abolish the Zimbabwe

Gender Commission. History teaches us a simple but important lesson. Progress does not happen by accident, equality does not emerge on its own and gender parity is not achieved simply by declaring it our national aspiration. It requires institutions, it requires commitment and it is dedicated mechanisms that work. Wake up every day with one mission and one mission alone to ensure that women and girls enjoy the full promise of equality guaranteed by the Constitution.

Hon. Speaker Sir, for many years, nations across the world believed that gender equality could be achieved simply by incorporating gender issues into the work of existing institutions. Still over time, a different reality emerged. The reality was that when everyone is responsible for gender equality, too often no one is accountable. The reality was that competing priorities frequently overshadowed gender concerns.

The reality was that despite good intentions, women continue to face barriers in political participation, economic opportunities and

access to justice and decision-making. So, the world learned a lesson. Mainstreaming alone is not enough. There must also be specialised institutions whose sole purpose is to champion, monitor, protect and advance gender equality. That is why the international community did not move away from specialised gender institutions. It moved towards them. The United Nations recognised the need when it established UN Women as the lead institution for gender equality within the UN system.

The United Nations also maintains a Commission on the Status of Women. The principal global body dedicated exclusively to advancing gender equality. The lesson from the United Nations is clear. Gender mainstreaming works best when there is also a strong specialist institution with the authority to coordinate, monitor and hold systems accountable. Mr. Speaker Sir, the lesson has been embraced by our own continent. The African Union established the Women's Gender Development and Youth Directorate. As the central institution responsible for advancing gender equality across Africa but the African Union did not stop there. It created specialised mechanisms such as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women

in Africa and AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security. This is because it understood that women's rights require focused attention, specialised expertise and dedicated accountability mechanisms.

In other words, the African Union itself recognises that gender equality cannot simply be absorbed into broader structures and expected to flourish. Across the continent, regional economic communities have reached the same conclusion. COMESA established a Gender and Social Affairs Division to provide leadership and oversight on gender issues. The East African Community maintains a specialised gender community development and civil society sector. The IGAD created a dedicated Gender department to support harmonised gender policies and mainstreaming efforts, while the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre was established as a specialised institution focused exclusively on advancing gender equality within West Africa, just to mention a few.

These institutions are different in structure, different in mandate and different in geography yet they all point to the same conclusion. When nations and regions become serious about gender equality, they create specialised institutions to drive it. Mr. Speaker, even the

European Union, often regarded as a global leader in governance innovation, follows the same model. While gender equality is mainstreamed across all EU policies, the Union established the European Institute of Gender Equality. As a dedicated institution responsible for research, monitoring, knowledge generation and institutional support, it was recognised that mainstreaming and the specialisation are not competing ideas. They are complementary ideas.

One ensures that gender equality is everyone's responsibility. The other ensures that somebody remains accountable. This is precisely the role played by the Zimbabwe Gender Commission. The Commission exists because drafters of the Constitution recognise a fundamental truth that equality requires a champion. It requires an institution that monitors compliance. If the global trend is towards strengthening specialised gender institutions, why should Zimbabwe move in the opposite direction? If the world has concluded that gender equality requires dedicated oversight, why should we dilute that oversight? If others are building specialised institutions, why should we dismantle them?

It is against this background Mr. Speaker, that I respectfully urge this august House to uphold the continued existence of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and reject any proposal that would abolish it. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this very important Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3. I thank you.

**\*HON. MAKUVIRE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for affording me this opportunity to add my voice on the Constitutional Amendment Number 3 Bill, which we are here to debate today. I would want to debate two issues and the first one is on the issue of the election of the President. I was elected by women of Harare Province. They strongly supported and elected me resoundingly. I also talked to them about the Constitutional Amendment Number 3 and they sent me as their representative to say that, as duly elected Members of Parliament of Zimbabwe, we should debate on their behalf and they also said that they want us as Members of Parliament to elect the President.

My second point is on the term extension. It is my view that the five-year term be extended by two years. It is my view that when we

hold elections, there is so much violence which then takes two years of the five-year term of Parliament trying to resolve the disputes causing us to remain in violence. The addition of the two years is now for forgiveness and settling disputes while the other five years will be for development.

I will then move to the issue of chiefs. It is my view that our chiefs be allowed to remain in their areas, presiding over disputes and not be involved in politics. Thank you.

**\*HON. MURWIRA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on the motion that was raised by Hon. Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi. I would want to thank him for this amendment. It came just in time. I am going to debate on two issues. The first one is that of the extension of the term of the President.

Let me say that the extension by two more years is not a bad idea because we see that if we go for elections, there are some people who fail to accept defeat. They then approach the courts for three years and then we end up working for only two years.

We have several projects that have to be finished. If we add two more years to make them seven, it means that there is adequate time

for those projects to be completed. I am saying that the extension of two years is a good idea and I am in support of it. Just as the women in Mashonaland East, they said they were in full support of CAB 3. If they are in support of CAB 3, what then stops us from supporting it?

I also want to talk about the Gender Commission. The Gender Commission is very good, Hon. Speaker. I am not saying that they must not come together, the Human Rights and the Gender Commission, but I am saying that it may be given time to work on its own. Seeing me here today and being able to speak like I am doing is because of the knowledge that I was given by the Gender Commission.

I am saying, may it stand alone. It also assists us as women, the girl child, the men and the boy child. I am sure you know that even in the rural areas, when women were being violated, they would fear going and reporting but through the Gender Commission, it taught us that if violence is inflicted upon you, go and report. Even men were afraid to go and report after being assaulted, but now they are free to go and report. I am saying CAB 3 is so good and when we reach

2030, everyone will be mature politically, speaking one language as Zimbabweans. I thank you.

**\*HON. JONGA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Firstly, I would say that a nation is formed by the people. The people are the nation. What it means is that we are the ones who enact the laws which we want to govern us and also live according to those laws. If we go to the Bible, we have the Old Testament and the New Testament, meaning to say, before the coming of Jesus Christ, some practices were being done, but after Jesus Christ came, he made some changes, which is similar to the Constitution which we are talking about today; to say we cannot fail to amend it to what we want as a nation because Zimbabwe is ours.

From the constituency that I am coming from, Mount Darwin West, they sent me to express their views which they already expressed. They were saying that two more years must be added, and they said add five more years and I said to them, I will go and express your views in Parliament. That was their request because they were seeing the work that is being done in this country and the peace that

we have in Zimbabwe. We do not have any form of violence, like the violence being witnessed in other countries.

They also looked at the work that is being done; it was said that 33 boreholes were supposed to be drilled. In Mount Darwin, they were very lucky. I have 11 wards and all of them, each ward has four or five boreholes, meaning that they are looking forward to the President remaining in power so that they will have an opportunity to have some VBU's which are called Village Business Units and people will be able to get water from taps.

The boreholes that are being drilled in the constituency from which I come from, we have 35 boreholes, so their wish is to have about 100 boreholes, meaning that no one will be drinking contaminated water. I was very glad and I was lucky that the people who moved around taking people's views, when we went to a pitch, there was a doctor who said that the elections that we do in Southern Africa cost USD47 per head. Meaning to say, if we have six million people who want to vote, if we multiply by that number, it is a lot of money that we would have spent on elections.

If we add two more years or five years, which people from my constituency are proposing, it means our country will be successful and I would have no challenges. I also want to talk about the voters' roll. There is nothing wrong with having the voters' roll taken back to where it was because there were some people who became jealous and hated a person; they thought that the person must not keep the records. If it is taken to the Registrar, I see no problem with that.

The issue of chiefs, I think there is nothing wrong with the chiefs being involved in politics because they are also human beings just like us. So, they have the right to do what they want to do.

Similar to churches, some people choose to go to Habakkuk, others choose to join Mugodhi. We cannot say they must not, same with the chiefs, we must not say they must not be involved in politics.

The issue of delimitation, yes, there must be a commission because what happened when we were going to elections, there were some wards which had some disputes. So if there is a commission that looks into the issue of boundaries, they will then carry out their duties because that is their rightful work which they will be carrying out.

Thank you Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members for listening to me.

**\*HON. BATITSA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for this opportunity. I rise to add my voice on the motion raised by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on CAB3. There was an issue with the election of the President. I see it fit for the President to be elected by the Hon. Members of Parliament. I am in support of this view because during the election period, there is violence, disunity and the use of quite a huge amount of Government funds. We have our neighbouring countries which also use this model in electing their President, therefore, I am in support of this motion.

On the seven issue of increasing the tenure to seven years for the President, MPs and councillors, I am fully in support because this idea is good for continuity of development rather than spending the nation's funds on elections. Again, the investors who want to come and do their businesses will then come because our nation would be having peace and stability.

I am representing women from Manicaland on the issue of the Gender Commission; I am saying that may it continue being there and not be transferred to the Human Rights because our nation is well

known as a champion in upholding the Constitution in line with gender issues. I thank you.

**HON. MAHACHI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for affording me an opportunity to debate the question of the Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 of 2026, also referred to as CAB3. As the representative of the people of Mutare North, I rise to lend my unequivocal support to all provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Bill No. 3 of 2026, which in my considered view, seeks to strengthen the architecture of governance and institutional effectiveness in advancing long-term developmental aspirations of our nation.

However, my debate will focus on the following provisions. Firstly, I support the proposal to extend the tenure of the President and the Parliament from five to seven years. The success of any developmental state is anchored in policy, certainty, continuity and strategic consistency. National transformation cannot be fully realized within short political cycles and often it compels governments to divide attention between governance and recurring electoral processes. By extending the constitutional term of office, we create a

more stable and predictable governance environment capable of sustaining long-term infrastructure development, industrialisation, economic modernisation and social conservation programmes. This amendment is therefore not merely about tenure; it is fundamentally about creating sufficient policy space for national development objectives to mature, consolidate and yield measurable results.

Secondly, I support the establishment of a dedicated Zimbabwe Electoral Delimitation Commission. Delimitation is one of the most technical and consequential processes within a democratic system requiring specialised expertise in demography, cartography, population dynamics and governance. By creating a distinct institution responsible for this function, the amendment strengthens institutional professionalism, promotes administrative efficiency and enhances public confidence in the delimitation process. It influences a progressive appreciation that specialised functions are best discharged by specialised institutions, thereby reinforcing the integrity of our democratic framework.

Thirdly, I support the provision of empowering the President to appoint 10 additional Senators on the basis of professional skills, expertise and competence. Contemporary governance challenges are increasingly complex, requiring informed legislative scrutiny. Parliament must therefore continuously draw on the knowledge, experience and technical acumen of accomplished professionals from diverse fields. The inclusion of distinguished experts within the Senate will enrich legislative discourse, strengthen oversight, improve policy formulation and ensure national decision-making benefits from a wider spectrum of specialised knowledge. In this regard, the amendment represents investment in legislative excellence evidence-based governance.

Fourthly, I support the amendment expanding the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court to hear matters involving points of law of general importance. In every mature constitutional democracy, the apex court serves not only as guardians of constitutional interpretation but also as custodians of legal, certainty and jurisprudential development. This amendment empowers the Constitutional Court to pronounce itself on issues of significant public interest whose

resolution may have far-reaching implications for governance, administration and the rule of law. In doing so, it promotes legal clarity, strengthens judicial oversight and contributes towards the coherent development of Zimbabwean jurisprudence.

Fifthly, I support the consolidation of gender equality functions within the Zimbabwean Human Rights Commission. The promotion of gender equality remains a fundamental constitutional imperative that must be pursued with vigour and commitment. By integrating these functions within the already established Constitutional Commission mandated to protect and promote human rights, the amendment seeks to enhance institutional coordination, reduce duplication of mandates and optimise the utilisation of public resources. More importantly, it reinforces the principle that gender rights are human rights and deserve protection within a comprehensive integrated human rights framework.

At its core, a Constitution must not only safeguard democratic principles but also equip the State with institutional capacity, stability and foster a desire to respond to the evolving aspirations of its people. The provisions I have supported today are directed towards

strengthening governance institutions, enhancing police continuity, broadening legislative expertise and improving the efficiency of constitutional administration. They speak to a vision of a modern, resilient and development-oriented state capable of delivering tangible outcomes for present and future generations. As we advance towards the attainment of Vision 2030 and beyond, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our constitutional framework remains responsive to national realities and supportive of sustainable development.

Accordingly, I submit that these amendments represent a progressive refinement of our Government's architecture and a strategic investment in developing long-term stability, prosperity and constitutional maturity. With those remarks, I support the Bill.

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** Indeed, I come as a representative of the people of Chinhoyi and the people of Chinhoyi did not mince their words. My experience of the last hundred or so days has been different from the one that has been painted predominantly in this House. The people of Chinhoyi started by not being happy with the fact that the consultation skirted the provincial capital, Chinhoyi. I will be forgiven for concluding, when I read that there were 1 472

rejection emails, that they all came from Chinhoyi. I will be forgiven for saying that because I intently interact with men on the streets, unemployed graduates, war veterans and some of whom reminded me that Chinhoyi is the birthplace of the Second Chimurenga; the civil servants who whispered their thoughts, fearing reprimand. The carefree university students, the indigent, the elderly and the disabled. The political activists, including those from the ruling party that cannot fathom Mhangwa voting for their President. Mr. Speaker, in the majority of the submissions, even in my family group, the consensus was that the Bill is misplaced and takes away from the people rather than giving them anything.

I will not labour on issues that have been ventilated at length by Hon. Members before me. I choose to restrict myself to a few angles but before that, as I prepared for this debate, these words from one of our SRC leaders during my university days kept ringing in my ears and indeed, will shape my submission together with the pastoral letter from my spiritual fathers, the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference.

I am a proud Catholic and I abide by the guidance that I was given. I start by quoting the bishops in their submission. They emphasise that they are merely speaking as a moral and civic voice. They say the Constitution is not just a legal document but is a solemn national covenant born out of sacrifices; aspirations and the sovereign will of the people of Zimbabwe. As such, the Constitution...

**\*HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** What Hon. Mhangwa is debating was captured by the report which was presented by the Chairperson of the Committee and it was adopted, so there is no need for him to repeat that. Thank you.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I will repeat to say there are so many ways to kill a cat, just as the Hon. Speaker has said. So, let them kill the cat using those various ways.

**\*HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** I think you did not understand my point Mr. Speaker. I am saying that the point that he is expressing is in the report of the Committee.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I have already made a ruling. You may go ahead Hon. Mhangwa.

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** Thank you for asserting that in Chinhoyi as *Kore-kore*, we have our own way of killing a cat. We can safeguard public confidence in institutions. As I wrap up my introduction, allow me to quote the words from my SRC leader then. Pride always asks, is it popular? Greed always asks, is it beneficial? Fear always asks, is it safe? The conscience always asks, is it right? As I proceed with my presentation, I will be led by my conscience. I listened with intent to Hon. Ziyambi, who, by the way, is also from my province. I listened as he said the words that rang the same bell and indeed, the same bell as the jingles that we have been subjected to in the last 90 days.

Mr. Speaker, I will not take all the angles but in the majority of my presentation, I will talk about the notion that there is a need for projects to be completed and for projects to be completed, there is a need for us to extend the term limit. I also listened carefully as the first presenter, Hon. Matema, came with a very sophisticated way of describing CAB3 as a vector. As he described it as a vector, he said it is a quantity that has two things: direction and magnitude – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjection.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order. Can the Hon.

Member be heard in silence!

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** When Hon. Matema presented, he gave me my Eureka moment. I heard him speak of CAB 3 being akin to a vector. He started very well by saying it has two components, direction and magnitude and indeed, this passes the test of science and engineering. Vectors have direction, and they have magnitude. As he proceeded, he made a not-so-scientific postulation saying that what matters is the direction and the magnitude does not matter. I am presenting that the direction he speaks of is already specified in our Constitution. When the President is elected, when I am elected as a Member of Parliament, it is already known that I will serve for five years as the President and five years as a Member of Parliament.

The direction is known. The President should develop Zimbabwe from when they took it to when you will return it to the next person. It is known and there is no need for us to worry about the direction. What determined today whether I was going to be presenting this debate or not was the time that I left Chinhoyi and the speed with which I travelled to come to this august House. This is the

magnitude; you cannot ignore it. There is a dangerous precedent that is being set by this House, that term limits are elastic. I will proffer my departure in the direction that I have said. Allow me to caution as an engineer about the dangerous trajectory we are about to take. One excuse that has been widely used for extending the term has been projects.

Before I do that, I want to put it on record that the people of Chinhoyi I interacted with were adamant that whatever change you want to bring, please give us a referendum to put our views plainly. They are clear in terms of the duration of my term and that of the President, which they say should end in 2028. If we need a new mandate, we need to go back to them. They still want to directly vote for their President. Projects by their nature never have the same duration. One project lasts a month, another lasts two months, another lasts five years, and some last 25 years.

Without a baseline of the common developmental projects length, there is no need to put an extension that has no correlation to the projects that we should achieve. For any project, the politicians, particularly during their term of office, set the clock for the project

implementation. As to what gets built and how fast it gets built, the mere thought that the term is elastic will make us drag and allow time to be lost.

Allow me to break down this logic by following the ten key points before proffering the solution. As we progress as a country, we need developmental planning that is generational and not tied to a single political term of office. This proposition will further entrench what Zimbabwe has experienced over the years, where projects are prioritised for the potential to lure voters rather than their potential to change lives.

The second point is that offices in charge of executing projects and not personalities should be encouraged. We should be at peace with coming to complete projects that were started by others and planning projects to be completed by others. There is nothing bad about it, Mr. Speaker Sir. This is how nations progress.

My third point is that real nation building is not achieved in one term and trying to achieve that in one term will simply keep Zimbabwe being a pride for respective politicians. Half of the projects

I planned for when I was working for ZESA from 2006 to 2008 have not been implemented to date. If there was a proud politician who insisted on the Minister of Energy, he would still be there today, on the premise that the project has not been implemented.

There is no one with a monopoly on a new Great Zimbabwe. Change of character will not change the script. If our project execution matrix is right, whoever takes office will simply fit in and deliver. I had an experience some four or ten years back when I was doing projects in Zambia. I was pleasantly surprised as I went into Zambia and saw the roads, the malls and the marvellous work they were doing and I asked, " What did Zambia do right"? The project manager I was working with was very crude and said, " We stopped the nonsense of keeping a President who is not performing". The project manager was emphatic to say even if the President who comes in has all his witnesses, he will bring one good spec and if we have six Presidents with different unique strengths, we will have six different areas.

A case in point in Zimbabwe, when the former President Robert Mugabe was here, he took us to school. Zimbabwe is known for its

schooling. Zimbabwe is known for its educational index. We should not be encouraging people to stay beyond what is necessary in the office. We want Zimbabwe to prosper.

My fourth point is that project planning and project management are the role of technocrats within ministries and not politicians, hence those who get permanent employment and not us politicians. Ours is merely to do ground-breaking and to cut the ribbon when the project is finished.

The fifth point is that in Zimbabwe, we burden our Head of State with groundbreaking and commissioning. Elsewhere in the world, for example, in South Africa where I spent some time, these are projects that are commissioned by councillors and mayors. I am not sure if we have any worthy projects that need sourcing a person who has already served two terms to stay on to cut the ribbon.

If we are serious about progression, allow people to progress and naturally, the term would end at the deadline. If this logic stood, then President Banana or even Prime Minister Mugabe would still be in office because the power plants that we are doing currently were

planned during the Smith regime and some of them were planned in the early 80s.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to transition to my seventh point. This thinking will expedite projects that ordinarily should have taken longer to implement as no two projects have the same duration.

Number eight, the key reason for failure to complete projects is not election, it is funding and allocation of projects to cronies and people with no capacity to implement such projects. The Harare-Beitbridge Road has not been completed in eight years. Mr. Speaker Sir, adding two years will simply make it another two years to make it ten years - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! You have got three minutes remaining.

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** The ninth point, Mr. Speaker, a longer time with the same leader who has a bias with a certain area will result in stunted growth. *Tinopera tose nekwashi*. A typical example is Harare. It has built a Trabablas, now we are going to

Mabvuku for another Trabablas when Chinhoyi needs water. Mr. Speaker Sir, bringing different characters brings different angles.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to go to my solution. I will quickly go to the solution without expanding. Number one, how do I propose the remedy for this dilemma of continuity risk and the long-term project struggle?

Number two, consistency in policy, budgeting and leadership. State projects should be State projects instead of party projects. Do away with the labelling of presidential projects. Then delete to make them strong, non-political institutions and turn to the project from inception right through to commission.

Number three, strengthen our oversight role as Parliament. Part of what we are seeing as a problem is us not following up on projects.

Number four, look at term limits as project deadline and plan accordingly. We have examples where it shows that where there is a will, there is a way. SADC Roads, 190 kilometres done in a few months. Harare-Chirundu Road, in three years, not an inch has moved from Westgate.

Number five, Mr. Speaker Sir, I will touch on the mechanism to implement projects faster, which should be prioritised instead of the leader-for-life strategy of delayed projects.

Number six, we should ensure we do not reward optics but integrated development plans that come from the needs of the people in our wards and not imposed from the top. Coupled to this, we need stronger procurement laws that make failure to complete projects on time, costly to the contractor.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You are left with 30 seconds.

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** Mr. Speaker Sir, because I have 30 seconds, I will depart from what I was talking about, projects. As a descendant of Kwiranerwizi, who was the chief then of Mashonaland Central, the biggest chief for that matter before the whites came and was removed because of politics, he was restricted to Howard Mission to become a headman. I insist that chiefs are a no-go area and whoever doubts this, let us go to the mountains. The Parliament which is sitting today used to belong to the Shumba Simboti Clan, which is

where I belong. If anyone doubts, let us go to the mountains by Mazowe and see if we come back with the same resolution. I submit.

**HON. MAKUVIRE:** I have a point of privilege Mr. Speaker. My point of privilege is that this is quality debate, something that we expect from Hon Members.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Makumire, that is not in your space to comment on that. That is my job as Speaker, if I have to. Do not use up my powers here. Thank you.

**HON. MAKUVIRE:** I made a mistake when I commented but I wanted to request for more time. I am requesting that you add five more minutes because what he is debating is good for the whole nation. I thank you.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I second.

**HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** I object.

**\*HON. SAMAMBWA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity and I am very glad that the Hon. Member who just debated talked about the issues of chiefs. If you debate it without coming from the chieftainship, you mislead people. Firstly, I want to thank the Hon. Minister of Justice for this Amendment Bill. Mr.

Speaker, I come from Kwekwe, my constituency is Zhombe. Kwekwe has six MPs. We gathered in Kwekwe, we were together, the six of us. There was Hon. Minister July Moyo, Hon. Tobaiwa, Hon. Chokururama, Hon. Madzivanyika and Hon. Samambwa. I am saying this because our constituencies, the six of us came together and that is what people said

**\*HON. TOBAIWA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker. I would want to thank my chief from Zhombe who was talking of something good but when he mentioned the names of MPs, I think he made a mistake. I was not available when that meeting was convened. I think those were not the views of the people from my constituency. I thank him because he is a chief but in my constituency, the message has not reached the constituents.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I think that is why he did not mention your name because it did not cover your constituency. Hon. Sambambwa, please continue. I think maybe that is why he did not mention your name. So, Hon. Samambwa, please continue.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker  
Sir.

We are in this august House to represent our constituencies. Let every MP speak of his own constituency. He must not put words into my mouth. I am here and I will debate on Mbizo Constituency. He must focus on Zhombe Constituency. I thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I did not hear Hon.

Samambwa mentioning your name – [AN HON. MEMBER: *He did.*]

– No, it is okay. I think Hon. Samambwa probably is speaking from the truth of the matter of what happened at that occasion. Hon.

Samambwa, please carry on.

**\*HON. SAMAMBWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for defending me, but let me say I come from Zhombe, but this happened in Kwekwe. People convened in Kwekwe but if she is refusing, she is just refusing here. People convened in Kwekwe, not in Zhombe. Hon. Speaker, I am talking about Kwekwe.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order, order Hon.

Madzivanyika. Your name is here on the list. You will debate and if the Hon. Member is saying something that you do not attest to, you are going to have ample time to put your own view and clarify issues. We cannot keep on doing points of order because somebody is saying

he is talking from where he was and what he experienced and everything. So take your seat. You will also get that opportunity to do the same thing.

**\*HON. TOBAIWA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir. I would want to thank our chief from Zhombe. He was talking of something good, but when he mentioned the names of MPs, I think I was skipped. I was not available when that meeting was convened. Thank you for protecting me. I wanted to tell people from where I come from that I did not see what the chief narrated. I thank him because he is a chief, but in my constituency, the message has not already reached us yet. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I think maybe that is why he did not mention your name because he did not cover your constituency. Hon. Samambwa, please continue.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order. Thank you Mr. Speaker. We are in this august House to represent our constituencies. Let every MP speak of his own constituency. He must not put words into my mouth. I am here too and I will debate on Mbizo Constituency. He must focus on Zhombe Constituency. I thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon Members. I did not hear Hon. Samambwa mentioning your name.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** He did.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** No, it is okay. I think Hon. Samambwa probably is speaking from the truth of the matter of what happened at that occasion. Hon. Samambwa, please carry on.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order. My point of order arises from the decision passed by the Speaker this morning. He said do not make statements which are not factual. The Hon Member is making statements about my name which has not been brought before you. We do not want that kind of situation as a ruling has been made already. The Hon. Member should just focus on his views and what he observed. I also have my reservations. I thank you.

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** On a point of privilege Mr. Speaker. The decorum of Parliament is that if a ruling has been made, then it should be consistent. Hon. Mudenda, the Speaker of Parliament made a ruling when Hon. Chigumbu was debating to the effect that if someone brings a statement that is not substantiated it should be

withdrawn. Hon. Samambwa is bringing issues which cannot be verified and he must withdraw because we cannot verify that. He cannot continue to debate when he has brought issues to deliberately mislead the House. That cannot happen Mr. Speaker. Let us be fair.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mavhudzi, I am the Chair at the moment and I made a ruling. Hon. Samambwa, you may go ahead.

**\*HON. SAMAMBWA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Let me thank all Hon. Members who come from Kwekwe and also thank the people who were present at that gathering. I will now focus on the issue of chiefs being involved in politics. The chiefs have always been in politics only that they were not participating fully. If a person votes...

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir. Hon. Samambwa is not telling us factual information. Chiefs have not been involved in politics and that is why we are discussing this issue today in this august House.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Chigumbu, if I understood Hon. Samambwa's connotations properly, he said the chiefs like anybody else are voters, so somehow they are into politics.

So, you need to understand that very well. I did say and I will keep on saying it again that there are so many ways of killing this cat. Hon. Samambwa, please carry on.

**\*HON. KARIKOGA:** Thank you Hon. Chair, the word and name of person that you spoke most in this House is ‘order’ and ‘Hon. Chigumbu’. Since morning Hon Chigumbu has been disturbing our work. May you do something about him?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, if you read this book, it will guide you on how you ought to behave in this House. If for any reason the Speaker believes that you are being disorderly on purpose, the book actually prescribes that the Speaker must chuck you out of the House. However, we are debating a very important Bill here and it is my desire or any other Speaker’s desire to have anybody removed from the House. We want everyone to be part and parcel of this debate. So, do not arm-twist us to a point whereby we might end up being made to stick to this book to the letter. Please be guided accordingly. Disorderly behaviour is not permissible in this House and this book states that very clearly.

**\*HON. SAMAMBWA:** When I was talking about the issue of chiefs, there is no one who can say the chiefs are not in politics because when they go to vote, who do they vote into power?

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Section 281 (2) of our Constitution says that traditional leaders should not act in a partisan manner. They should not further the interests of any political party. As it stands, before this Bill passes, it is unlawful for chiefs to participate in political activities. So, whenever the Hon. Member is saying that there are chiefs who are in politics, it means that they are doing it illegally. Who are those chiefs because action must be taken against them for breaching our Constitution? So, he must withdraw that as he is putting chiefs at risk. That is wrong and they should not expose our chiefs who are doing well.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order Hon. Members. No Hon. Member must stand up for a point of order before the Speaker makes a ruling. I want us to do it properly. So, Hon Madzivanyika, Hon. Samambwa is stating a factual thing that all people are voters including chiefs. He did not say they are politicians but voters. Now he is advocating for them to freely exercise their

rights as politicians. It is his debate and his time and when your time comes, you will also make your own debate.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish actually to put forward before this House...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** No, no, no Hon. Matangira, I do not expect that of you at all.

**\*HON. HAMAUSWA:** There is something that surprised me which you let be done by the Chairperson of the Mines Committee. He raised his hand at the Speaker. What does it teach us as Hon. Members? He cannot raise his hand to the Speaker. We cannot ignore such behaviour. It is not good.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I think Hon Matangira was just indicating that we must have order in the House. He cannot do that unruly behaviour. He probably was chasing away a fly.

**\*HON. SAMAMBWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I agree with the clause that says traditional leaders are allowed to participate in politics. They were deprived of their rights before. Let me also say something about the extension of the presidential term; I agree with this clause. The term of office must be increased from five years to

seven years because there is nothing wrong with that amendment –

[HON. MEMBERS: *Hauna kupfeka nhumbi dzeParliament.*] -

**\*HON. SAGANDIRA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you are not dressed properly – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections*] - Order Hon. Members and when I say order, you must take your seats. It is a simple cardinal rule. We cannot keep on doing points of order – [HON. MEMBERS: *Points of order are allowed*]- I know that points of order are allowed but I am saying, as Hon. Members, honestly, are we going to keep on interrupting Hon. Members speaking?

**HON. SAGANDIRA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What is our point of order?

**\*HON. SAGANDIRA:** I want Hon. Samambwa to correct his speech. Our Constitution says that chiefs are part of the Judges; they are the ones who sit in what is called a Kangaroo Court. They are not politicians; I want him to correct that statement. I thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I thought I made a ruling on that. You are a learned colleague but you are out of order.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I think if you followed Hon. Samambwa's contribution since he started debating, he has not even completed three statements, meaning his debating time is reduced because we have some big mouths in here. It will not help and if Hon. Members continue making noise without allowing the Hon. Member to debate, we are prepared to sit in this House until he has been given enough time to debate – [HON. MADZIVANYIKA: *Inaudible interjection.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, order! Hon. Chigumbu, are you tired of being here? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Ngaabude.*] – This is your last warning. Hon. Samambwa, you may go ahead.

**\*HON. SAMAMBWA:** I thank you Hon. Speaker. What we are debating here are those things that we want amended in our Constitution. This means that we do not have these sections in our Constitution. If these sections were there already, we were not going to debate this in this House. I want to touch on the clause that talks about the increase in the parliamentary term of office. People are saying that this clause is meant for the Presidential term only, let me

hasten to say this includes also the councillors, Members of Parliament and the President. This clause seeks to amend the number of years from five years to seven years. I support this clause because as I am speaking right now, even if the other Members of Parliament will want to oppose this, they must bear in mind that in the rural areas, people do not have peace, they do not have time to do their work because of elections; the time of five years is too little.

I also want to touch on the clause that gives Members of Parliament the power to vote for the President. If Hon. Members are given the power to elect the President, it means that they also have the power to remove him. You cannot be given powers to remove a person whom you have not chosen. I support this clause. In Shona they say, *murume anoramba mukadzi nekuti ndiye akauya naye pamusha. Kana wawana aripo kudhara unorega akamuunza amurambe.*

I also want to touch on the clause that says the voters' roll must be manned by the Office of the Registrar General because all births and deaths are registered with the Registrar General. In our constituencies, you find that if you inspect the voter's roll, the names

of dead people will still be appearing. I support this clause because we will have the correct list of people who are eligible to vote.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker Sir, as Zhombe Member of Parliament, I support...

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Standing Order Number 65 (1), “A Member who thinks that the rules of procedure have been breached by another Hon. Member, may raise a point of order. In this case, Mr. Speaker Sir, I have noted that there is a rule of procedure. Ordinarily, I do not want to raise a point of order since my earlier argument. However, there is something that is glaringly dangerous that was said by Hon.

Samambwa, which also goes in sync with what Hon. Speaker

Advocate Jacob Mudenda said. Hon. Samambwa, I ask you to sit

down and - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

Rules are rules. Hon. Samambwa said dead people have been voting, which is dangerous because he must prove and there was an argument that there was violence by ZANU PF members. The Hon. Speaker said you must prove that and then you allow him to continue

after alleging that dead people were voting. So, were we losing in the Presidential elections because some people were voting but they are dead?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! You probably did not understand him very well Hon. Hamauswa. He never insinuated that at all.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Mr. Speaker, if you indulge me. If we allow Hon. Hamauswa to misrepresent to that level, then we become a circus. We are no longer a Parliament. He said you will find names in the voters' roll. He never said they would vote. So, this type of misrepresentation is either sponsored or he is losing his mind. -

[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order!

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** This is dangerously unfair Mr. Speaker Sir. This should not be allowed. He cannot say I am losing my mind. I am raising a point. Are we agreeing that our voters' roll has dead names?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order Hon.

Members. Can we have order in the House! Can we have a bit of silence in the House! Hon. Samambwa, you may continue.

**\*HON. SAMAMBWA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Let me conclude by saying, I said as Hon. Samambwa from Zhombe, I support this Bill and also support the clause that chiefs must be allowed to participate in politics to go to vote. Who are they voting for if they are not allowed in politics?

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND**

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** I move that the debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

*On the motion of* **THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI),** *the House adjourned at Quarter past One o'clock p.m. until Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.*